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Weekly Bulletin: Red Willow Dam

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The reservoir elevation of Hugh Butler Lake this morning is 2553.59 feet, content of 6,075 acre-feet. The target elevation is between 2,554 to 2,552 feet in elevation to allow additional investigation on the upstream face of the dam, and to assure the safety of the downstream areas. The last time the lake was at 2,560 in elevation was in 2002.

Reclamation will be conducting a public meeting in McCook, NE to inform the public of current and future activities related to Red Willow Dam. The meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2010 at the Community Building on the Red Willow County Fairgrounds from 6:30 to 8 pm. Notices of this meeting will be made thru the news media at the appropriate time.

The current release from Red Willow Dam is 30 cfs. The release will be maintained for now to match the inflow and target elevation. It is emphasized that there have been no unusual seeps, leaks or sources of water detected by the current investigations.

A road was completed on the upstream face of the dam and the additional exploration was conducted. This was located on the right side of the dam, near the outlet works intake structure.

The downstream channel continues to be monitored as appropriate. No problems are being experienced at the current discharge rate.

The road across the dam has been closed to allow drill crews and engineers to conduct exploratory drilling from the crest of the dam. It is anticipated that the road will be reopened to the public in the next two weeks subject to the completion of ongoing activities. Additionally the area below the dam will also be limited from public access during this time.

Current updates and information are available at: www.usbr.gov/gp/nkao/redwillow/

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